



## College and Career Readiness: Senior Postsecondary Timeline

### ❖ August

- Attend college and career fairs to help finalize your postsecondary plans
- Visit colleges all through the fall if necessary
- Start your applications – watch your deadlines!
  - Make sure all transcript and document requests are in at least two weeks prior to any deadlines to ensure there aren't any delays.

### ❖ September

- Look into retaking the SAT or ACT. This is one of your last chances to retake it without throwing off the timeline for more selective schools.
- Use Labor Day weekend to visit schools if possible.
- Keep working on your applications!

### ❖ October

- FAFSA opens October 1<sup>st</sup>! Fill it out as soon as possible to maximize your financial aid packages from postsecondary programs.
  - The money awarded to you from FAFSA can be used for 2- and 4-year schools, as well as apprenticeship and trade school programs. If you are eligible, fill it out!
- Look into retakes for the SAT and ACT again this month if you are hoping to improve your score.
- Use Columbus Day weekend to visit schools if possible.
- Keep working on applications!

### ❖ November

- Fill out FAFSA if you haven't already!
- Use Veterans Day weekend to visit schools if possible
- Keep working on applications! Most early action deadlines are this month – check to see if your school has them. I
  - If you aren't sure if early action deadlines are for you, stop in the College and Career Center and speak to Mrs. Murdock.

### ❖ December

- Fill out FAFSA! The money offered from FAFSA does run out, so the earlier you do it the better. Visit one of the workshops in the College and Career Center if you need help.
- Try to have at least half of your college applications done before winter break – you'll be able to relax and the earlier you finish applications, the sooner you'll hear from schools.
- Use Naviance to compile a list of scholarships and apply to them.
- Report any acceptances and scholarships to Mrs. Murdock. Bring your letters as proof of acceptance and award.

### ❖ January/February

- Make sure FAFSA is completed as soon as possible.
- Keep applying to private scholarships.
- Keep reporting acceptances and scholarship offers to Mrs. Murdock
- Finish all of your college applications

### ❖ March/April

- Last chance for FAFSA!
  - See Mrs. Murdock for help as needed.
- Review your acceptances and financial aid packages from all of your schools to make the decision that's best for you

- If you need help contacting the financial aid office of your schools, speak with Mrs. Murdock ASAP.
- Make your final decision by the end of April.
- Keep reporting all acceptances and scholarships
- ❖ **May**
  - May 1<sup>st</sup> is Decision Day. Inform your school that you will be attending in the fall and inform the schools you will not be attending of your decision.
    - This is courtesy. You declining to go there will open a spot for a student on the waitlist who may be hoping to get into their dream school.
  - Complete the Senior Survey on Naviance and be sure to mark which school you'll be attending. This is how you request your final transcript is sent to them.
  - Report your final list of acceptances and scholarships by May 5<sup>th</sup>.